

Rpt # 23  
8-2-68 86SITUATION INFORMATION REPORTVIETNAM PRISONER RELEASE

As early as 3 July, Hanoi had broadcast that three U. S. prisoners of war would be freed. In an obvious propaganda ploy, similar to the earlier release of prisoners to Thomas HAYDEN's group, it was announced that the POWs would be released to the custody of a delegation of American anti-war representatives. The delegation was later identified as: Stewart MEACHAM of Philadelphia, Peace Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee; Mrs. Anne SCHEER of Berkeley, California, wife of Robert SCHEER, an editor of RAMPARTS magazine; and Vernon GRIZZARD, an anti-draft organizer from Cambridge, Massachusetts. The POWs were later identified as three American airmen: Major James F. LOW of Sausalito, California, whose plane was shot down by a missile last December 16, 1967; Major Fred W. THOMPSON of Taylors, South Carolina captured March 20, 1968; and Captain Joe V. CARPENTER of Victorville, California, captured February 15, 1968.

On 12 July, the pacifist delegation had a stopover in Paris en-route to Hanoi and in Paris met with Ambassador HARRIMAN and separately with the North Viet delegation to the Paris Conference.

Considerable confusion has evolved over the release of these Americans as was the case in the previous release which allegedly irritated Hanoi when the released prisoners were returned to the U.S. by military rather than commercial plane. On 17 July, a Hanoi broadcast indicated that the men were to be freed in time to catch the weekly International Control Commission flight from Hanoi to Vientiane, Laos. Neither the POWs nor the peace group delegation were on that flight. However, on 18 July a Hanoi broadcast stated that the Vietnam Committee For Solidarity With Progressive Americans obtained the pilots from the Vietnam People's Army political department and handed them over to the representatives of the "American People's Anti-War Movement." At the ceremony the Vietnamese representative pointed out that the release was a "new manifestation of the lenient and humanitarian policy of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and a very significant action at the moment when the U.S. Government is intensifying its criminal war of aggression against the Vietnamese people".

Vernon GRIZZARD, "representing the Americans who oppose the war of aggression in Vietnam" then spoke and allegedly, among other things favorable to the North Vietnamese, said "Americans can more clearly see the strength of the Vietnamese people from these humanitarian acts while the American Government continues the war."

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The released pilots also spoke. They expressed deep gratitude to the Government of the DRV, Vietnam People's Army, and the Vietnamese people for their humane and lenient policy. They promised that back in the U.S. they would make the American people understand better the great determination of the Vietnamese people to remove aggression and find national independence, freedom and reunification.

After the ceremony, the pilots and pacifists left by car for an unknown destination. Failure of the pilots to arrive at Vientiane on the ICC plane on the 18th caused speculation that the North Vietnamese might fly them to Europe for a propaganda appearance at the Paris Conference. It was later conjectured that they might come out through China or through South Vietnam.

A traveler from Hanoi to Vientiane, who asked not to be identified, said he had seen the pilots at a news conference in Hanoi and that he doubted that the pilots had made their statements entirely voluntarily. He said ICC sources in Hanoi speculated that the three men will not leave North Vietnam until they have made a propaganda tour of sites where American bombs had fallen.

On 21 July Stewart MEACHAM of the Anti-War Committee reportedly cabled the American Friends Church Organization that their departure would be delayed one week but no reason was given. The State Department indicated that they had not received any official information relative to the release or departure of the pilots. On 23 July the North Vietnam Ambassador to Cambodia stated that the pilots were "already free" since they had been turned over to members of the American Pacifist Organization who came to receive them. He refused further details.

Again on 26 July the "released pilots" were not on the weekly ICC flight to Vientiane. This flight is the only scheduled air source linking North Vientiane and outside countries that does not pass through Communist China. Travelers reported they had seen the pilots and pacifists at the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi and that "they are living well". The North Vietnam Ambassador to Laos who was aboard the plane said that the pilots would "soon join their families". State Department officials again expressed puzzlement and disappointment over the delay.

The State Department's asserted puzzlement over the failure of North Vietnamese authorities to deliver the pilots to Laos was derided as a "bald-faced lie" by Robert SCHEER, an editor of RAMPARTS magazine whose wife, Anne, is a member of the Anti-War Committee seeking to bring the men to the U.S.

No further information has been noted to date--1 August 1968.

SOURCE: Public news media

RELIABILITY: Unknown

The members of the Anti-War Committee are:

Stewart MEACHAM: (James Stewart MEACHAM) A confidential source of the FBI advised on 26 June 1963 that he knew MEACHAM while both were attending the Presbyterian Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. He stated that MEACHAM knowingly associated with Communist Party members at the time. Source stated that in 1942 he received a letter from MEACHAM in which MEACHAM stated he was a Communist; that Communism was the wave of the future and that he was through with the church. Subsequently, on 31 March 1964, MEACHAM was listed as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Triple Revolution (with such personalities as W. H. "Ping" FERRY of the Fund for the Republic; Irving LAUCKS of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions; Michael HARRINGTON; A. J. MUSTIE; Gunner MYRDAL, Bayard RUSTIN, William WORTHY, Linus PAULING and Hugh B. HESTER.) He was a delegate in 1965 to the Helsinki Conference, other delegates known to include Carl BLOICE of People's World, Herbert APTHEKER, Christopher KOCH of Pacifica Radio, veteran Marxist Alexander TRACHTENBERG and Herold SUPRIANO of the DuBois Clubs of America. In 1965, as peace secretary of the American Friends Service Committee he was one of the listed sponsors of the March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam, 27 November 1965. Other sponsors included Erich FROMM, D. F. FLEETING, Michael HARRINGTON, H. Stuart HUGHES, Arthur MILLER, John LEWIS of SHCC, Carl OGLESBY of SDG, Bayard RUSTIN, Norman THOMAS, Dr. Benjamin SPOCK, Dr. Edwin DWILBERG, and Dagmar WILSON of WSP. There are many additional references to MEACHAM regarding his opposition to the HCUA, his activities with Turn Toward Peace, the Committee for Non-Violent Action, the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace, the National Congress for Unemployment Insurance, etc. He appears as a signatory on an "Appeal to the Conscience of America for Peace With Honor in Vietnam" issued by the Catholic Worker, the Committee for Nonviolent Action, the Student Peace Union and the War Resisters League, in which the signatories declared their refusal to cooperate with the United States Government in pursuing the war in Vietnam and pledged to encourage conscientious objection to military service for that reason.

Vernon GRIZZARD--A Confidential source of the FBI advised in the past that 24 persons attended an organizers conference held in Chicago on 28-29 December 1963 for the purpose of forming the "call to a founding convention to be held in June 1964 for the formation of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization (the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America). GRIZZARD, a student from Swarthmore College, was one of those in attendance. He was also reported by an FBI source to have been present at a dinner to honor Hyman LIMER (Educational Secretary of the CHUSA) and to raise money for the Worker, which was held in Philadelphia on 27 June 1964.

Ann SCIEER--Ann SCIEER, the former Anne Butlerfield WELLS, is the wife of Robert SCIEER, foreign editor of RAMPARTS and activist in the New Left. She was born 14 March 1942 in California, the daughter

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of John C. S. WEILLS, II and Audrey WEILLS, nee DAVIS. She married SCHEER on 22 October 1965. A confidential source of the FBI advised that she held an annual subscription to the Communist People's World at the time of her marriage to SCHEER. On her marriage application she listed her employment as "student."

16 August 1968

**PROJECT MERRIMACK - Special Report**

The Washington Mobilization for Peace held a meeting on 13 August 1968, to determine ways to commence a campaign against chemical and biological warfare. The group laid the groundwork for a long range plan to impede the production of biological warfare weapons as well as curtailing research into this field. Five areas of special interest discussed during this meeting were: 1) Camp Detrick, Md.; 2) Edgewood, Md., Arsenal; 3) Pine Bluff, Arkansas; 4) Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah; 5) an area around Denver, Colorado, not called by name.

It should be noted that a large number of those participating in this meeting were known members of the Women Strike for Peace (WSP), and at one point in discussing financial matters Barbara BICK, known WSP member, suggested that the WSP handle the money as they were a sound, responsible group.

It was also reported at this meeting that the WSP will be holding a weekend retreat in September at a summer camp near Leesburg, Virginia.

Attached is a copy of the flyer this group is planning to distribute, among other places, on the buses going to the demonstrations during the Chicago Democratic National Convention.

Attachment



**ARE YOU AWARE?  
SECRET RESEARCH  
HIDES DANGEROUS WEAPONS**

Chemical and biological weapons are powerful means of mass killing."

Barry Commoner, Ph.D.  
Washington University, St. Louis

Biological warfare is Public Health upside down. It aims to hurt, to cripple, to destroy -- people, useful animals, food and other plants."

Theodor Rosebury, Ph.D.  
Prof. Emeritus, Washington U.

Starvation as a weapon of modern warfare has the particular property of inflicting suffering on civilians while doing little damage to the military."

Jean Mayer, Ph.D., D. Sc.  
Harvard University

Mystery surrounds the death of 5000 sheep near the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah where chemical and biological weapons are produced.

Thousands of acres of cropland have been destroyed by chemical sprays in Vietnam. There is no assurance that these lands will ever be able to produce crops again.

Chemical sprays, like Mace, are being used against demonstrators and strikers.

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You have a right and a duty to demand of your Congressmen that these secret research and manufacturing projects be exposed and terminated; also to urge ratification of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

For further information communicate with:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section  
106 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, at its  
1924 International Congress in Washington, D.C., urged that  
its Sections

**1924**

Appoint committees to investigate the development of  
chemical warfare and its special dangers, and to organize  
opposition thereto, both for the sake of ending it and as a  
means of educating the masses as to the real character of war  
in general.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U. S.  
Section, said in February 1968

We view with horror that during these many years there has  
been an enormous increase in research in and development of  
chemical and biological weapons by our government or under  
government contract. We abhor the callousness and the erosion  
of morality of an increasing number of American scientists who  
are devoting their professional lives to the development of  
such weapons of destruction.

**1968**

We call upon the leaders of our government to take  
immediate steps to transform all centers of research in and  
production of chemical and biological weapons into centers of  
research in and development of the means for eradication of  
hunger and disease; and to destroy all of its existing stock-  
piles of chemical and biological weapons.

We urge our government to ratify the 1925 Geneva Protocol  
outlawing chemical and biological warfare, and to work for an  
international agreement banning the manufacture and use of  
chemical and biological weapons.

## Geneva Gas Protocol

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRIA

BELGIUM

BRITISH EMPIRE

BULGARIA

CANADA

CHILE

CHINA

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

DENMARK

EGYPT

ESTONIA

ETHIOPIA

FINLAND

FRANCE

GERMANY

GREECE

INDIA

IRAN

IRAQ

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War  
of  
Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases,  
and of  
Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,  
signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925

The text of the substantive part of the protocol reads as follows:

"Whereas the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices, has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world; and,

"Whereas the prohibition of such use has been declared in Treaties to which the majority of Powers of the world are Parties; and,

"To the end that this prohibition shall be universally accepted as a part of International Law, binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations;

"Declare:

"That the High Contracting Parties, so far as they are not already Parties to Treaties prohibiting such use, accept this prohibition, agree to extend this prohibition to the use of bacteriological methods of warfare and agree to be bound as between themselves according to the terms of this declaration."

The Protocol has been in force since 1928. It was ratified by the 42 countries listed prior to World War II. It has been signed but not ratified by:

BRAZIL

JAPAN

NICARAGUA

SALVADOR

UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

URUGUAY

IRELAND

ITALY

LATVIA

LIBERIA

LITHUANIA

LUXEMBURG

MEXICO

THE NETHERLANDS

NEW ZEALAND

NORWAY

POLAND

PORTUGAL

RUMANIA

SPAIN

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

THAILAND

TURKEY

VENEZUELA

YUGOSLAVIA



